



Competition Announcement

„Über Brücken – Überbrücken“ (Over Bridges – Bridging Over)

The city of Frankfurt am Main and the U.S. Consulate General have joined together to promote German-American friendship through their program *UnderstandinG*. The goal of the program is to further mutual understanding and bring together both Frankfurt and American youth living in the region. A key element of the program is a bi-annual award, offered for the first time this year honoring outstanding engagement in promoting German-American friendship. This year, the focus will be on the 60th anniversary of the Berlin airlift.

The 60th anniversary of the airlift is the perfect opportunity to make this historic topic accessible to a younger audience. Sixty years later, the anniversary of the airlift still ‘builds a bridge’ to German-American friendship today. In light of the current social and political challenges we all face in a globalized world, it is essential to work together in shaping a common future. The anniversary of the airlift offers an opportunity to learn from past experiences and to strengthen the dialogue between Germans and Americans.

The competition called, “Über Brücken – Überbrücken” (Over Bridges – Bridging Over), is organized by the city of Frankfurt and the U.S. Consulate General in cooperation with Fraport AG. Frankfurt schools, American and international schools in the Rhein-Main region as well as organizations and clubs, are being called on to participate in the competition. Through bridges of cooperation and understanding – the pillars of friendship – youth are coming together to “bridge over” cultural differences.

Why the theme of the Airlift? During the blockade of Berlin by Soviet troops from June 1948 to May 1949, the Western allies: United States, Great Britain, and France, provided supplies for citizens of West-Berlin through the airlift. The airlift serves as a great example of how a seemingly hopeless situation could be turned into a positive one: the airlift laid the foundation for the continuing friendship between the United States and Germany, which is carried on today through countless personal contacts and friendships.

The goal of this year’s competition is to use an innovative format in order to make the historical events of the airlift accessible to a young audience, and to continue to build the bridge of common responsibility.

The deadline for the submission of projects is Wednesday, April 30. Please send projects to one of the following addresses:

Anne Rückschloß, Stadt Frankfurt am Main - Dezernat Finanzen, Paulsplatz 9, 60311 Frankfurt am Main, Telefon (069) 212-35539, E-Mail anne.rueckschloss@stadt-frankfurt.de

or

Dr. Kirsten Gerstner, US-Generalkonsulat - Presse-und Kulturabteilung, Gießener Straße 30, 60435 Frankfurt am Main, Tel: (069)-7535-8824, E-mail: gerstnerk@state.gov

Submissions must include

1. The **project** itself. There are no restrictions for innovative ideas. Projects can be in formats such as exhibition, video, song, poster, post card, picture, painting, sculpture.
2. A **project description** in German and English (a detailed version in one's native language and a shorter summary in one's second language); a list of participants (a minimum of two) must be included.

Preise

1. Prize: **Trip to Berlin**, including two overnights and program (Bundestag, U.S. Embassy, etc.)
- 2.- 4. Prize: **2000 Euro** for each participating school/ class for beautification of its class rooms, a class project or for the acquisition of essential materials)
5. Prize: Trip to the **Memorial Point Alpha** close to Fulda
- 6.- 7. Prize: Full day **Fraport Tours**, including tarmac und much more.
8. Prize: Tickets for a show at **The English Theatre with Backstage Tour**

Award Criteria

- a) Cooperation of Germans and Americans working together on a project is desired
- b) An accurate depiction of the common responsibility to solve modern challenges
- c) Symbolically including information about the historic airlift events and/or the results of the airlift
- d) Symbolically connecting the historical situation with the present
- e) Sustainability of the project idea

U.S. Consul General Jo Ellen Powell and Frankfurt City Treasurer Uwe Becker are the patrons of the competition. The best entries will be chosen by a panel of judges. The best projects will be announced at an event to commemorate the airlift at the Fraport memorial site on June 30, 2008.

So, enter your projects! It's a great opportunity!